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Dworshak recreation staffers encourage fire safe practices

Orofino, Idaho – Visitors planning to head for summer recreation opportunities at nearby Dworshak Dam and Reservoir should be aware of current potentially dangerous fire conditions and temporary restrictions being applied to reduce the risk of wild fires, according to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreation and natural resources officials.

"This is a great time of the year to use the reservoir. Fishing is still great and many campsites are available. We just hope folks understand the dangers of dry conditions and respect a few important but necessary restrictions so we can try to avoid wildfires," said Billie Drewery, Corps forester at Dworshak.

Forest fuels have reached extremely dry conditions and the fire danger rating is in the "HIGH" category, according to a park ranger for the Corps' Walla Walla District. This has caused officials to implement temporary restrictions on visitors' campfires to reduce the risk of wild fires.

"Effective immediately and indefinitely, campfires must be completely extinguished between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., until fire hazard conditions change. We want to remind our visitors that they should take extra precautions not only with campfires but also with other materials which can become fire ignition sources, such as smoking materials, vehicle exhaust systems, and even charcoal briquettes. Visitors may find it useful to carry a shovel and bucket to extinguish their fires," said Heather Burke, a Dworshak park ranger.

For more information about recreation opportunities or fire conditions at this recreation oasis in northern Idaho, contact Burke at (208) 476-1279.

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